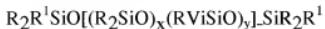


IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A treated kaolin containing silicone rubber composition consisting essentially of:

- (i) one or more polymers which have the formula



wherein each R is the same or different and is an alkyl group containing 1-6 carbon atoms, a phenyl group or a 3,3,3-trifluoroalkyl group, R¹ is a hydroxy group or an alkenyl group, x is an integer, y is zero or an integer, and x + y is between 700 and 10 000;

- (ii) treated kaolin
- (iii) a curing agent; and
- (iv) optional additives selected from the group of one or more rheology modifiers, pigments, colouring agents, anti-adhesive agents, plasticizers, adhesion promoters, blowing agents, fire retardants and dessicants,

which composition is ~~substantially free of reinforcing fillers including less than or equal to about 5 parts by weight of the reinforcing fillers per 100 parts by weight of the one or more polymers (i) and the treated kaolin (ii).~~

2. (Previously Presented) A composition according to Claim 1 characterized in that the polymer(s) comprise(s) a mixture of two polysiloxane gums having the formula R₂ViSiO[(R₂SiO)_x(RViSiO)_y]SiR₂Vi and the formula R₂ViSi(R₂SiO)_xSiR₂Vi wherein in each formula, R represents an alkyl group containing 1-6 carbon atoms; Vi represents the vinyl group; and x and y each have values of 500-1,000.

3. (Previously Presented) A composition according to Claim 1 characterized in that the kaolin comprises a kaolin treated with an alkoxy silane of the formula $R_{(4-n)}Si(OR)_n$ wherein n has a value of 1-3; and R is an alkyl group, an aryl group, or an alkenyl group.

4. (Previously Presented) A composition according to Claim 3 characterized in that the alkoxy silane is a compound selected from the group consisting of methyltriethoxysilane, methyltrimethoxysilane, phenyltrimethoxysilane, vinyltriethoxysilane, and vinyltrimethoxysilane.

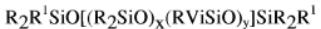
5. (Previously Presented) A composition according to Claim 1 characterised in that the composition comprises about equal amounts of the polymer(s) and the kaolin.

6. (Previously Presented) A composition according to Claim 1 characterised in that the curing agent is a peroxide selected from the group consisting of benzoyl peroxide, 2,4-dichlorobenzoyl peroxide, di-t-butyl peroxide, and dicumyl peroxide.

7. (Previously Presented) A composition in accordance with Claim 1 characterised in that the curing agent is an organohydrogensiloxane curing agent, and a platinum group metal hydrosilylation catalyst is added in an amount sufficient to cure the composition.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of making a treated kaolin containing silicone rubber composition consisting essentially of:

- (i) one or more polymers which have the formula



wherein each R is the same or different and is an alkyl group containing 1-6 carbon atoms, a phenyl group or a 3,3,3-trifluoroalkyl group, R¹ is a hydroxy group or an alkenyl group, x is an integer, y is zero or an integer, and x + y is between 700 and 10 000;

- (ii) treated kaolin
- (iii) a curing agent; and
- (iv) optional additives selected from the group of one or more rheology modifiers, pigments, colouring agents, anti-adhesive agents, plasticizers, adhesion promoters, blowing agents, fire retardants and dessicants,

which composition is ~~substantially free of reinforcing fillers and includes less than or equal to about 5 parts by weight of the reinforcing fillers per 100 parts by weight of the one or more polymers (i) and the treated kaolin (ii), and~~

which method consists essentially of the steps:

- (i) mixing the polymer(s) and treated kaolin under room temperature conditions,
- (ii) adding a curing agent to the mixture in (i); and curing the mixture in (ii) at a temperature above room temperature by the application of heat.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 8 in which room temperature is normal ambient temperature of 20-25°C.

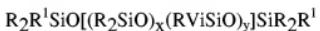
10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) A composition according to Claim 1 characterised in that each R group is a methyl or ethyl group.

12. (Currently Amended) A treated kaolin containing silicone rubber composition consisting essentially of:

- (i) 100 parts by weight of a polysiloxane gum comprising equal parts by weight of:
 - (a) a first polysiloxane gum, and
 - (b) a second polysiloxane gum different from the first polysiloxane gum,

wherein the first and second polysiloxane gums independently have the formula



and wherein each R is the same or different and is an alkyl group containing 1-6 carbon atoms, a phenyl group or a 3,3,3-trifluoroalkyl group, R¹ is a hydroxy group or an alkenyl group, x is an integer, y is zero or an integer, and x + y is between 700 and 10 000;

- (ii) calcined kaolin treated with an alkoxy silane selected from the group consisting of methyltriethoxysilane, methyltrimethoxysilane, phenyltrimethoxysilane, vinyltriethoxysilane, vinyltrimethoxysilane, and combinations thereof;
- (iii) a curing agent; and
- (iv) optional additives selected from the group of one or more rheology modifiers, pigments, colouring agents, anti-adhesive agents, plasticizers, adhesion promoters, blowing agents, fire retardants and dessicants,

which composition is substantially-free of reinforcing fillers including less than or equal to about 5 parts by weight of the reinforcing fillers per 100 parts by weight of the polysiloxane gum (i) and the calcined kaolin (ii).

13. (Previously Presented) A composition according to Claim 12 characterized in that the first polysiloxane gum has the formula $R_2ViSiO[(R_2SiO)_x(RViSiO)_y]SiR_2Vi$ and the second polysiloxane gum has the formula $R_2ViSi(R_2SiO)_xSiR_2Vi$ wherein in each formula, R represents an alkyl group containing 1-6 carbon atoms; Vi represents the vinyl group; and x and y each have values of 500-1,000.

14. (Previously Presented) A composition according to Claim 13 characterised in that each R group is a methyl or ethyl group.

15. (Previously Presented) A composition according to Claim 14 characterised in that the curing agent is a peroxide selected from the group consisting of benzoyl peroxide, 2,4-dichlorobenzoyl peroxide, di-t-butyl peroxide, and dicumyl peroxide.

16. (Previously Presented) A composition in accordance with Claim 14 characterised in that the curing agent is an organohydrogensiloxane curing agent, and a platinum group metal hydrosilylation catalyst is added in an amount sufficient to cure the composition.

17. (Previously Presented) A composition according to Claim 13 characterised in that the curing agent is a peroxide selected from the group consisting of benzoyl peroxide, 2,4-dichlorobenzoyl peroxide, di-t-butyl peroxide, and dicumyl peroxide.

18. (Previously Presented) A composition in accordance with Claim 13 characterised in that the curing agent is an organohydrogensiloxane curing agent, and a platinum group metal hydrosilylation catalyst is added in an amount sufficient to cure the composition.

19. (Previously Presented) A composition according to Claim 12 characterised in that the curing agent is a peroxide selected from the group consisting of benzoyl peroxide, 2,4-dichlorobenzoyl peroxide, di-t-butyl peroxide, and dicumyl peroxide.

20. (Previously Presented) A composition in accordance with Claim 12 characterised in that the curing agent is an organohydrogensiloxane curing agent, and a platinum group metal hydrosilylation catalyst is added in an amount sufficient to cure the composition.